



# EPA Testing of Groundwater And Initial Results

Near I-25 and Logan Street

Denver, Colorado

Volume 1, Issue 1

January

## What Is EPA Doing?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began an environmental investigation in the area around Interstate 25 and Logan Street in Denver in the Fall of 2004. The primary purpose of the investigation is to determine if there is groundwater contamination under residential or commercial buildings and if it might pose any potential health risk to nearby residents. The contaminant of most interest is trichloroethylene (TCE), used mainly as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts. TCE can move from groundwater through soil and as a vapor enter buildings, usually through cracks or openings in the foundation slab or a crawl space.

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## What Did EPA Find?

Initially, EPA sampled groundwater at locations along Mississippi at Lincoln, Sherman, and Grants Streets. TCE was not detected at these locations. In addition, EPA obtained information from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regarding the location of de-watering wells in which TCE was detected during T-Rex construction. The wells were located east of Buchtel Street in what is now the lightrail corridor along I-25.

Consequently, EPA did more groundwater sampling in that area. Sampling from 15 of 16 locations did not detect TCE. Sampling from one location (north of I-25 and on the east side of Logan Street) detected TCE at a level of 910 micrograms per liter, which is above the established federal and State of Colorado drinking water standard of 5. EPA sampled again in this location at a more shallow depth and found no TCE contamination.

## What Will EPA Do Next?

EPA will do additional sampling. We will sample at deeper depths at the location where the TCE was detected, and we will sample existing wells located on the U.S. Postal Service facility at Logan and Kentucky Streets.

All well locations and elevations will be surveyed to determine the direction of the groundwater flow. This information is needed to better understand the movement of the groundwater and will help us to track any contamination. Groundwater flow in this area is complicated. The retaining wall put in by CDOT, as part of its T-Rex construction, further complicates flow.

If we find contaminated groundwater at shallow depths under residential areas, we will conduct sampling in the home, as appropriate, to determine if there are vapors directly underneath the foundation and if indoor air sampling is warranted.

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## Give Us A Call!

Steve Way  
EPA Project Manager  
999 18th Street, Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
303-312-6723

Diane Sanelli  
EPA Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
999 18th Street, Suite 300 (8OC)  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
303-312-7822

Email: [sanelli.diane@epa.gov](mailto:sanelli.diane@epa.gov)

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## Add Your Name To EPA's Mailing List

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

